INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



a. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C22C21/00 C23C4/02

C22F1/00

F16C33/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\frac{\text{Minimum documentation searched}}{\text{C22C}} \, \, \frac{\text{Classification system followed by classification symbols)}}{\text{C23C}} \, \, \frac{\text{C23F}}{\text{C23C}} \, \, \frac{\text{C36C}}{\text{F16C}}$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
Υ	WO 97/22725 A (MIBA GLEITLAGER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT; MERGEN, ROBERT) 26 June 1997 (1997-06-26) cited in the application	1-14, 24-26		
Υ	page 2 - page 14; claims 1-31	15-23		
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 04, 31 August 2000 (2000-08-31) & JP 2000 017363 A (TAIHO KOGYO CO LTD), 18 January 2000 (2000-01-18) abstract	1-14, 24-26		
Y	EP 0 911 425 A (LINDE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT; LINDE AG) 28 April 1999 (1999-04-28) column 2 - column 4; claims 1-7	15-23		

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents: 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance 'E' earlier document but published on or after the International filling date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means 'P' document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed	 'T' later document published after the international filling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. '&' document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
29 November 2005	06/12/2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Palent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Chebeleu, A

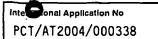
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